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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God of all, we have heard glorious things about Your goodness. Let Your glory be over all the Earth. Our hearts make melody to You because of Your exceeding greatness. Thank You for Your faithfulness that endures forever. Today, give us steadfast hearts that we may honor You with our lives.

Be near to our Senators, giving them a powerful awareness of Your presence. Empower them in their labors to heal broken hearts and to bind the wounds of the oppressed. Remind them of the importance of reverential awe, for You take pleasure in those who delight in doing Your will.

We lift to You again our Nation's military, asking that You will use it as an instrument of peace in our world. Lord, grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray this in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we have a period of morning business until

3:30 this afternoon. At 3:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. It is my understanding that several Members will be here to offer amendments to the legislation; therefore, we hope to make good progress on the bill over the course of the day.

Under the order from Friday, at 5:30 today, the Senate will vote in relation to the Schumer amendment related to HAZMAT trucks. It would be my hope that we would have an additional amendment ready to be voted on immediately after the 5:30 vote. Therefore, Senators should expect two votes beginning at 5:30 today.

I remind my colleagues that we need to finish this legislation either tomorrow evening or early Wednesday morning so that Senators may observe the Rosh Hashanah holiday, which begins Wednesday. Given that time constraint, I encourage Members to show restraint during the amendment process. We will need to have a full day and possibly a late evening tomorrow in order to complete the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I know my colleagues concur that this is an important piece of legislation that we should not, will not, delay.

I also inform Senators we are working on agreements with respect to other appropriations measures, and I will continue to consult with Democratic leadership in an effort to expedite those bills as well.

I thank everyone for their attention as we begin these busy days of the session.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a

period for the transaction of morning business for debate only until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

### MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it was 1 year ago today that the voters in my home State of Texas passed proposition 12, a referendum that paves the way for substantive medical liability reform and provides hope that quality health care will win out over the interests of a handful of politically powerful personal injury lawyers.

The people of Texas spoke, and the doctors across the State are reopening their doors. In fact, two obstetricians in the small town of Fredericksburg, TX, announced their return with an advertisement in the local newspaper that proclaimed: "We're Back!"

One of these obstetricians, Dr. David Cantu, had been working for more than 10 years as an obstetrician with no claims, but he and his partner had to quit practicing obstetrics because of the cost of insurance. Dr. Cantu's overhead was hitting 100 percent, and he had a 3-month stretch with no pay.

As soon as they stopped delivering babies, the practice saw an immediate decrease in insurance costs, but their patients were forced to travel elsewhere to have their babies delivered. This was doubly difficult for them considering the fact that 70 percent of Dr. Cantu's patients are Medicaid patients, and 40 percent were Spanish speaking.

But with proposition 12, Dr. Cantu and his partner are now able to deliver babies again. Proposition 12 has placed a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases. When Dr. Cantu was asked, How has that helped you and your patients, he said:

Because now I come out ahead instead of paying to be an Obstetrician. Prop. 12 made the practice of Obstetrics affordable.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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